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RANDOLPH.

No family in America has produced more great men than that which stands at the head of this article. In all departments of life and in all the activities of statesmanship, men of the Randolph family though bearing other names, have stood preeminent. To go into details would fill a library. Many books and histories have been written on Chief Justice Marshall, President Thomas Jefferson and General Robert E. Lee; and these are among the many celebrities of the house of Randolph.

The founder of this family in America was Col. William Randolph who was born in Yorkshire, England in 1657 and died in 1711. Dr. Slaughter says: "The Randolphs of Scotland were ennobled, and in England they played a conspicuous part in the diplomacy of Queen Elizabeth." It is known that many eminent statesmen, including a chancellor of the Exchequer, Lord Randolph Churchill, and Winston Churchill, at present one of England's great men, who did immense service to civilization in the World War at a critical time, were of the English branch of this family.

There are two traditions in the Randolph family about the first William—one that he was eminent as a statesman in those days, and an attorney-general, and the other that he came into the colony with a broadaxe on his shoulder. One looking at his handsome picture with its shapely hands, in the first volume of Beveridge's *Life of Marshall*, could not credit the broadaxe theory. He came to Virginia about 1674 and settled at "Turkey Island", on the James River. He speedily acquired an ample fortune and extensive landed possessions. He married Mary Isham, of Bermuda Hundred, who was a descendant of the Scottish house of Murray; thus making John Marshall and Lord Mansfield, whose real name was William Murray, of the same stock. The eldest son of this couple was William Randolph, a distinguished judge, who married Elizabeth Beverley, who had a numerous progeny.

Thomas, the second son, married a Fleming and was the great-grandfather of Chief Justice Marshall; and from this branch also descended Tom and Ed Marshall, the great Kentucky orators,

along with the distinguished Thomas A. Marshall, of the Kentucky Supreme Court, son of Governor Humphrey Marshall, a great lawyer and orator and author of a History of Kentucky.

The third son, Isham, who married Jane Rodgers, was the grandfather of President Jefferson, and many other people of high distinction.

Richard, the fourth son, married Jane Bolling and from this match descended John Randolph of Roanoke and the Carys, Harrisons, Meades, etc. Anne Randolph of this branch married Gouverneur Morris, the eminent New York statesman.

The fifth son, Sir John Randolph, knight, married Susan Beverley, and from this union sprang Peyton Randolph who was president of the First Continental Congress, and who was one of the very founders and builders of American Independence and in my humble judgment as great a man as this race produced, and who dropped dead at his post of duty in Congress preparing the way for this mighty republic. Honor to his name and memory! John Randolph, a great lawyer, was also of this union; he, in turn, was the father of Edmund. This John was on the committee that admitted Patrick Henry to the Bar—the committee being divided, one for and one against, and John, “Attorney-General”, as he is called, cast the deciding vote in favor of young Henry. Edmund was one of the greatest intellects of his race. He did great service in establishing our constitution, being an untiring advocate of its adoption. He was governor of Virginia and a member of Washington’s cabinet. But his greatest work was in the convention which adopted the constitution and made Virginia a part of the Union. His last appearance in any matter of note was in the defense of Aaron Burr in the U. S. Circuit Court at Richmond, in which Marshall presided, and let the world know that law and not popular clamor, was supreme. A daughter of Edmund married Justice Daniel of the U. S. Supreme Court.

There were several other children among whom were Elizabeth, who married Richard Bland and from this marriage sprang the distinguished Bland family, from whom came “Light Horse Harry” Lee and his more distinguished son, the Flower of Southern Chivalry, Gen. Robert E. Lee.

I quote from Dr. Slaughter's History of Briston Parish:

"The following are among the distinguished descendants of William Randolph of "Turkey Island":

Sir John Randolph, Speaker of the Ho. of Burgesses, Treasurer and Atty.

Peyton Randolph, Gov. of Virginia, Atty. Gen'l, and President of the first Congress.

Thos. Mann Randolph, Member of the Va. Convention of 1776.

Beverley Randolph, Governor of Va.

John Randolph, Att'y Gen'l of Va.

Edmund Randolph, M. Va. Convention of 1776, of the Federal Convention of 1787, and of that of Va. of 1788, which ratified the Constitution of the U. S.; Gov. of Va., Att'y Gen'l and Sec. of State of the U. S.

John Randolph of Roanoke.

Thos. Mann Randolph, Jr., Col. War 1812, M. C. and Gov. of Va.

Richard Bland, M. of the Congress of 1776.

Thomas Jefferson, President U. S.

Theodrick Bland, Jr., Col. of the Rev. and M. C.

Richard Henry Lee, Signer Dec. of Independence.

Francis Lightfoot Lee, Signer Dec. of Independence.

Thomas Ludwell Lee, M. Va. Con. 1776.

Dr. Arthur Lee.

Henry Lee, "Light Horse Harry" of the Rev., Gov. of Va., and M. C.

Dr. Wm. Lee.

Richard Bland Lee, M. O. C.

Wm. Stith, Historian of Virginia.

Bishop Wm. Meade of Va.

Wm. Johnson Dawson, M. C. from N. C.

Robert E. Lee.

Sydney Smith Lee, Capt. U. S. and C. S. Navies.

Henry St. Geo. Tucker, M. C. Jurist and Author.

Beverley Tucker, Jurist, Prof. and Author.

Prof. David Hunter Tucker, M. D. Author.

St. Geo. Tucker, Author.

Hon. John Randolph Tucker.

Gen'l Richard Kennon.

Commodore Beverley Kennon, Sen'r and Jr.

Wm. Munford, the translator of Homer's Iliad.

James Pleasants, Gov. of Va. and M. C.

Among others who came of this family are: Judge J. R. Tucker, now of Bedford Va., former Judge of Alaska; Henry

St. George Tucker, an eminent lawyer and statesman, of the present time; Bishop Randolph of the Episcopal Church; Randolph a great Virginian poet, who wrote some stirring verse during "Reconstruction" days; Judge Thomas J. Withers, one of the great ante-bellum Judges of South Carolina; Chief Justice Eugene B. Gary, of South Carolina and his brothers, Judges Ernest Gary and Frank B. Gary. I am also informed that Judge James S. Cothran, congressman and eminent lawyer, and his son, Associate Justice Thomas P. Cothran, of the Supreme Court—all of South Carolina, were of this family. I have merely given a meager and bare outline of this family whose name shines like the sword and belt of Orion in American History.

The Randolphs were usually well developed and muscular in body. Senator Beveridge says "The Randolphs were generally handsome in person, of intellectual strength and great mental and physical courage."

C. J. RAMAGE,

Pres. S. C. Bar Association.

Saluda, S. C.